



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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November 27, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, United Stone and Design, United Stone #1 Mine, S/047/074, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: November 14, 2002
Time of Inspection: 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly sunny, 40's
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

This site is on the way to another site I needed to visit, so I stopped to look at the area.

Getting to the site:

Beginning on the Seep Ridge Road in Section 30 of Township 12 South, Range 22 East, take the road leading southwest toward Willow Creek. When you get to Willow Creek, head north for about two miles then cross the creek. After about two miles, there is an intersection where the main road leads south and the road you want to stay on heads east. Follow this road toward Agency Draw. I drove into Agency Draw and hiked to the top of the plateau, but if or when the operator takes stone from this site, access will need to be from the top. The operator informed me there are existing roads to within a short distance of the area that would be mined, but I did not see them.

Observations:

I could not tell that there had been any disturbance from mining. The operator intends to gather stone from the surface, and it appeared there were two strata with material durable enough for building stone. The uppermost of these is shown in Photo 1 and is likely the stone to be mined.

The stone on the upper level would need to be accessed from the top of the plateau rather than through Agency Draw. I could not see roads that were close to this area, but the operator assured me in a subsequent telephone call that there are existing roads in this area.

I found a row of pink flags running approximately northeast/southwest through the area (Photo 2), and although I originally thought it might be the boundary of the operator's lease with SITLA, I do not believe that is correct. The flags probably have nothing to do with the mine operation.

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United Stone and Design, United Stone #1

S/047/074

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Conclusions and Recommendations:

On August 15, 2002, the Division was informed by John Blake of SITLA that the lease on this property, ML-48800, has not been approved for operations. Although the Division has accepted the operator's notice of intention, such an acceptance is always contingent on approval by any other appropriate agencies.

If the operator creates any new roads for the operation, these will need to be permitted. The operator indicated, though, that he generally drives on an existing road as close as possible to the stone he wants to take, loads the stone on pallets by hand, then uses a forklift to take the pallets back to the truck without blading a new road. This greatly minimizes the amount of disturbance reclamation work that needs to be done.

jb

cc: John Blake, SITLA

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ATTACHMENT

Photographs

S/047/074, United Stone #1 Mine, United Stone and Design

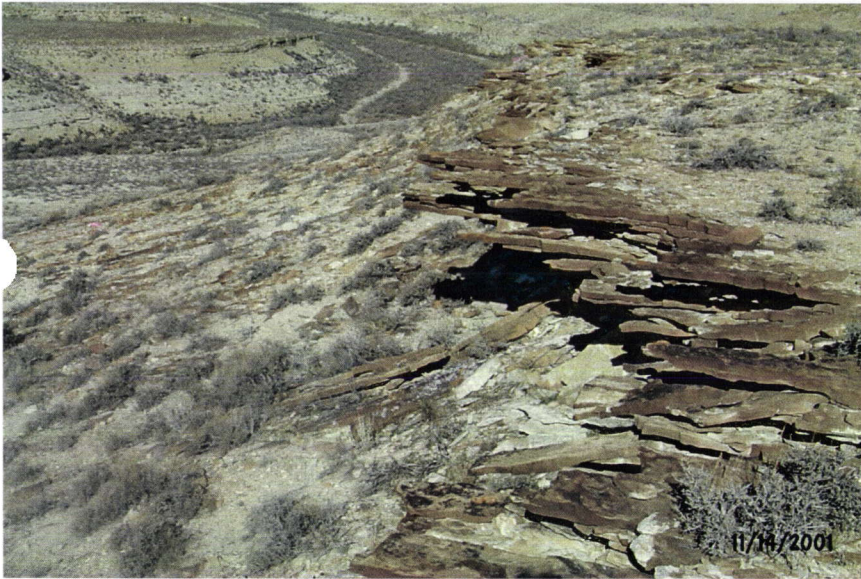


Photo 1. Stone outcrop at the plateau rim.

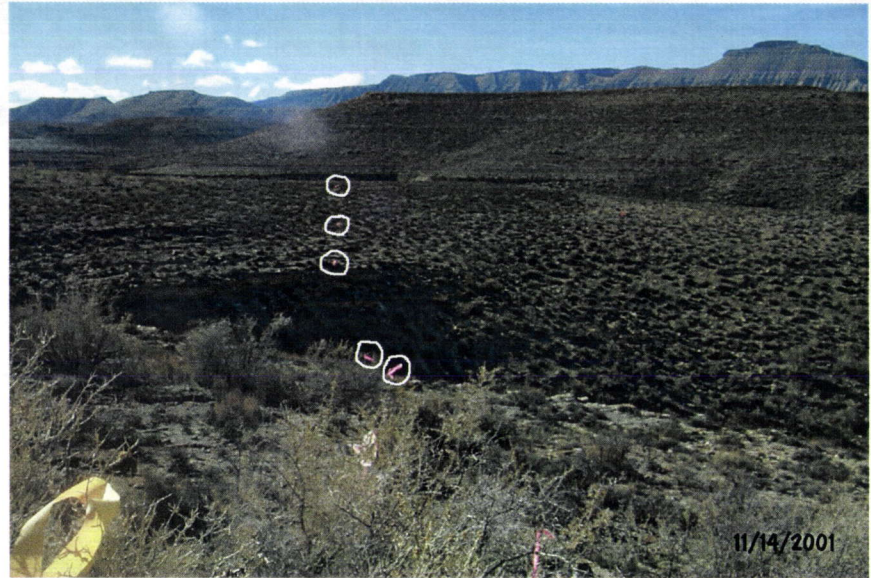


Photo 2. A row of flagging running approximately northeast/southwest through the lease area.